

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01424 01 OF 02 251926Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SAJ-01 OIC-04 /171 W

----- 090713

R 251901Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9971

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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PAGE 02 BONN 01424 01 OF 02 251926Z

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01424

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: DGB ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION  
CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. DGB LEADERS FEEL THAT THE WESTERN TRADE UNION STRATEGY AT THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING IN GENEVA TO LIMIT FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS TO CONTACTS WITHIN THE ILO WAS SUCCESSFUL. THEY HAVE ALSO ACTED TO REMOVE ANY PUBLIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT FUTURE CONTACTS WITH EAST EUROPEAN UNIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM INITIAL BRIEF PRESS REPORTS THAT THE DELEGATES AT GENEVA HAD AGREED TO HOLD A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN LATE 1974. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LABATT AND IN A PRESS RELEASE THE DGB DECLARED THAT THE WESTERN TRADE UNIONS HAD FIRMLY REJECTED COMMUNIST WFTU CALLS FOR UNITY OF ACTION BY WORKERS INCLUDING THE CREATING OF COORDINATION OR PREPARATORY COMMITTEES SUCH AS FOR A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON THE CSCE. DGB OFFICIALS SAID AND LATER CONFIRMED IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT THE PLANNED EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE STUDY OF HUMANIZATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT AND WOULD BE PLANNED BY THE FOUR WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY WHO WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DGB OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LABATT, ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE DGB, AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE DGB, WORKING WITH OTHER WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES, HAD SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED THE POLITICAL INITIATIVES OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS. THEY SAID THAT THE BRITISH TUC, IN CONTRAST TO THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LUXEMBOURG AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 01424 01 OF 02 251926Z

BELGIUM, HAD COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THE DGB IN CHANNELING THE COMMUNIST INITIATIVES INTO A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON TECHNICAL LABOR SUBJECTS. KRISTOFFERSEN SAID THAT SHELEPIN WOULD HAVE LITTLE SUCCESS TO REPORT TO BRESHNEV AND THAT EVEN THE ISSUE OF THE HUMANIZATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT IS A TWO EDGED SWORD FOR THE SOVIETS.

3. HE SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE. DGB SPOKESMAN FRITZE AND THE DGB PAPER WELT DER ARBEIT CONFIRMED THAT VETTER DID NOT RAISE THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT AT THE CONFERENCE (BONN 874) BUT INSTEAD CALLED ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE IN A LETTER TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OPENED.

4. KRISTOFFERSEN INDICATED THAT THE REQUEST OF THE ISRAELI HISTADRUT TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE WAS DENIED ON "POLITICAL GROUNDS". PRESUMABLY THE DGB BELIEVED THE PRESENCE OF AN ISRAELI OBSERVER WOULD HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR AN ARAB OBSERVER AND THE INJECTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

5. TURNING TO OTHER ISSUES, KRISTOFFERSEN SAID THAT THE ICFTU HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON CANDIDATES FOR THE JUNE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FOR THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DGB DID NOT INTEND NOW TO REACT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1973 REPORT AND THE ASSERTION IN SOLZHENITSYN'S

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PAGE 02 BONN 01424 02 OF 02 251924Z

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01424

"ARCHIPELIGO GULAG" THAT THE USSR, IN CONFLICT WITH AN ILO CONVENTION, MAINTAINS FORCED LABOR CAMPS. HE SAID A PUBLIC REACTION BY THE DGB WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND INDICATED THAT THE INITIATIVE OF THE DGB AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS AT THE LAST GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE MORE DIFFICULT BUT MORE CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS TO DEAL WITH SUCH INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. THE TRADE UNION LEADERS SAID THAT THE FACT SOLZHENITSYN IS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE BY TELEPHONE WITH GERMAN PUBLISHERS IS EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME RELAXATION OF CONTROLS.

6. KRISTOFFERSEN ALSO INDICATED THAT THE DGB IS TRYING TO INSURE THAT INCREASED COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE FRG WILL NOT BECOME ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS OF DETENTE AND IS MOVING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO.

7. THE DGB HAS ALSO EXPLAINED THE CONFERENCE TO ITS

MEMBERS. IN "PLEASE NO UNITY OF ACTION", DGB WEEKLY  
WELT DER ARBEIT, JANUARY 25, THE DGB EXPLAINS THAT IT  
REJECTED COMMUNIST WFTU CALLS FOR "UNITY OF ACTION" IN  
THE FORM OF COORDINATION OR PREPARATORY COMMITTEES FOR A  
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON THE CSCE. INSTEAD,  
THE DGB MADE CLEAR TO EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS THAT EAST-  
WEST MEETINGS AND COOPERATION CAN ONLY BE HELD UNDER  
THE AUSPICES OF THE ILO. THE GENEVA DELEGATES AGREED TO  
RECOMMEND TO NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS THAT ANOTHER  
MEETING BE HELD IN GENEVA IN LATE 1974. PREPARATIONS  
FOR THIS MEETING WOULD BE MADE BY THE FOUR EUROPEAN  
WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY IN  
CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 5  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <12 APR 2002 by garlanwa>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DGB ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, GE  
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**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005